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Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 17 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" July 26, 1947

Editorial

Nationalization of Bus Transport

THE Madras Government's five-year plan for nationalization of motor bus transport in the province, which has been recently announced, is a well thought out one and combines the demands of public convenience and advantage with the need for efficient management of a public utility concern. Some important characteristics of the plan may be drawn attention to here. Firstly, motor transport services throughout the province would be taken over by the Government within a period of five years and it is proposed that the programme should commence from October 1, 1947, with the bus transport services in Madras city and extend in rapid stages to the mufassal areas. Secondly, so far as the management of the state-owned transport services is concerned, while the Provincial Government will have an effective voice therein by subscribing 51 per cent of the share capital, the railways, which have a vital interest in the country's inland transport, the local bodies and the private operators, which have been engaged in transport services so far, are also proposed to be accorded their due share. Thus the railways will be allotted 15 per cent of the shares, local bodies 20 per cent, and private operators 14 per cent. The profits accruing from the business will be utilized for such purposes as the Provincial Government may decide after the distribution of a dividend which will not exceed 6$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The Provincial Government, being the principal shareholder in the concern, and being the principal party sponsoring the scheme, will take up any shares allotted to the other parties which may not have been taken up by them. The administration of the services will be entrusted not to a regular Government Department but to a statutory Transport Board, which will be a semi-autonomous body, while in each district the administration will be vested in a single officer, the District Transport Officer.

Programme of Nationalization

THE procedure to be followed in achieving nationalization and the time-table laid down for the purpose indicate that the Government have tried to make the whole process as little painful to the interests that will be affected and as equitable as possible. It is the private operator who will be principally affected by the policy of nationalization in the sense that it involves his elimination, and it is intended to spread the sacrifice that he is called upon to make by so arranging the programme of assumption of control that it will not be discriminatory against operators in a particular area or against a particular set or category of operators. After considering various schemes suggested in this connexion, the Government have approved the proposal that "20 per cent of the permits should be taken over in each of the bigger districts in the first year and that in the second year another 20 per cent in these districts as well as 40 per cent in the remaining districts should be taken over. The process will be continued year after year until all the services are taken over." To ensure further against unfair treatment of the existing operators, it has been decided that "care should be taken to see that the permits taken over are, as far as possible, those which have expired or are about to expire and relate to a compact area, that preferably the town services, where they exist, should be selected first, that if they do not provide the required quota, the routes proceeding to the adjoining places should be taken over to make up the 20 per cent."

MAIN FEATURES

(1) **Press Notes**
(2) **Labour situation**
(3) **Food front**
(4) **Nationalization of Motor Transport**
(5) **Co-operation**
(6) **Congress Ministries at Work**

Compensation

THE principle of payment of compensation to those operators whose routes would be taken over by the Transport Board but whose permit periods remain unexpired at the time of taking over has also been accepted. In the case of permanent permits that are valid at the time the Government acquire the transport service in a district, it has been decided that compensation may be paid with reference to the unexpired period of the permits at progressively reduced rates ranging from Rs. 1,000 if the period is not less than 24 months, to Rs. 200 where the unexpired period is less than 6 months. No compensation will be payable for temporary permits, time-expired permits or permits for spare buses.

Efficient Transport Service

NATIONALIZATION of transport services is now a widely accepted principle everywhere and is an essential and integral part of the policy of bringing all important public utilities under public ownership and control. Motor transport is an important item in the category of public utilities which therefore lends itself to such control. All public control postulates that it is exercised under effective safeguards for the public interests and that it provides a better, more efficient and, wherever possible, cheaper service to the people than private ownership can or may be willing to do. The Madras Government's scheme, as formulated and announced, satisfies all these basic and fundamental considerations and is, therefore, a sound one. The fact that the management is to be entrusted to a Statutory Transport Board eliminates the possibility of any kind of political or other kinds of pressure interfering with efficiency. Untrammelled by the profit-making motive, the controlling authority need not have any other interest except that of providing an efficient service. It may be hoped that as the result of the policy accepted by the Government, the province will have at the end of the five-year period a motor transport service covering the whole province, solving the transport and communication headaches that afflict our village and town populations and ensuring a cheap and efficient transport system.

Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies

THE question of the future of the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies scheme has given rise to a good deal of speculation and has been the cause of a considerable amount of misunderstanding too. Suspension of the licences for foodgrains procurement originally entrusted to these societies has evidently induced an apprehension that the societies are going to be unfairly treated or are going to be permitted to languish even if they are not formally liquidated. It has, however, been made clear and emphasized more than once that it is never the intention of the Government to liquidate the societies but that on the other hand they are anxious to devise ways and means by which the machinery provided by the societies could be utilized to promote the interests of the rural population and to ensure that the shareholders who had invested money therein do not suffer.

THE non-official Committee appointed by the Government to investigate this matter has issued a questionnaire, and the answers received and the information collected thereby should be extremely helpful in assessing and determining the future of the societies. It should be an appropriate question for consideration why these bodies should not be dovetailed into the framework of the regular co-operative movement and converted into agencies for the betterment of the villages in the numerous directions in which such betterment is practicable and essential. That the societies can be transformed into such agencies as multiple-purpose co-operative societies and should contribute to the infusion of new life into the co-operative organization was probably one of the intentions with which they were inaugurated. The Sir T. Vijiaraghava Achariar Committee on Co-operation has explained the advantages of multiple-purpose societies and pointed out that the main effort should be to re-organize the existing societies and constitute new ones in such a way that a single organization would serve as far as possible all the needs of the villager. Subject to the condition of efficient supervision being provided by the Government and paid secretaries are appointed they can serve an extremely useful purpose by educating the villagers on the principles of co-operation, by enabling them to enjoy the benefits of co-operative activity and by promoting rural welfare on all fronts.

IF a satisfactory and suitable scheme can be evolved by which this objective can be achieved and by which the share capital collected for these societies can be turned to maximum public advantage it will yet be in the interests of everyone concerned, and the community at large will benefit. The Enquiry Committee has a responsible and difficult task to perform; but it may be expected to perform it with impartiality and expeditiousness, keeping in view the background of the formation of the societies and other factors involved in the matter. The societies, with their nearly one crore and a quarter of capital, may yet be made to serve as foundations on which a strong co-operative structure can be built in this province and thus serve as instruments for the promotion of rural reconstruction along right lines. To the extent that they have the popular backing they can be the best media for the spread of co-operative education among the public.

'Stand-Still' Ordinance for Zamindari Areas

PENDING the enactment of legislation for the abolition of the zamindari system and for safeguarding and guaranteeing the rights of the tenants in zamindari estates, the Madras Government have promulgated an Ordinance to meet the emergent situation created by the growing tendency on the part of some of the zamindars in the province to alienate what are known as home-farm lands and communal forests. The Ordinance is intended to check this process, which betokens firstly, an anxiety on the part of the zamindars to circumvent and defeat in advance the purpose and objective of the legislation contemplated by the Government to abolish the permanent settlement system, and secondly, involves the deprivation of the tenants, who may have been cultivating these lands and who depend on them solely for a livelihood, of their means of livelihood. A somewhat dangerous and undelectable situation has arisen in parts of Madras as a consequence of these mutually conflicting movements. It has thrust to the forefront a principle of vital and far-reaching social and economic significance besides engendering a serious and complicated problem so far as law and order are concerned in some districts. The activities of some of the landlords in the direction of selling their home-farm lands has brought into existence a counter-movement among the peasants and cultivators, who indulge in the aggressive tactics of forcibly occupying these lands for cultivation and squatting on them and resisting the zamindars' efforts to evict them. Justification for the "squatting" is sought in the attitude of the zamindars, who are represented as persons trying to make hay while the sun shone, that is to say, of converting as much of land into cash in anticipation of the abolition of zamindaris.

THE Ordinance is an interim measure and will serve the limited but important purpose of stopping further unauthorized and panicky alienations in the interval between its promulgation and the time when the legislation for zamindari abolition will be placed on the Statute Book. It provides against the sale, mortgage, conversion into ryoti land, lease, assignment or alienation in any other form by the zamindar, of any communal or forest land in his estate. It, however, gives the option to the zamindar to lease out land which is private to any tenant for a period not exceeding two years. The penalties provided for contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance are imprisonment, which may extend to two years, or fine, or both. No prosecution can be instituted under the Ordinance without the previous sanction of the District Collector.

THE promulgation of the Ordinance must be considered against the background of the aggravating movement in the zamindari areas to dispose of the private lands and other communal lands as mentioned already. The cumulative danger cannot be disregarded of these alienations assuming the aspect of anti-social acts, in the sense that the zamindar, in alienating his private land, may also be depriving the tenant, who has been in occupation of the land and who has been cultivating it, of his occupation. The dispossession of a number of tenants accentuates the number of those who have to be classified as landless agriculturists and brings into existence a social and economic problem of progressively serious proportions besides creating, as pointed out already, a law and order problem. In a tug of war between zamindars and tenants the Government cannot remain helpless or disinterested spectators, while disorder and the threat to peace is gathering momentum.

THE root causes of the trouble have, of course, to be tackled, and it is for this that the Government have been and are anxious to bring forward the zamindari abolition legislation. The Bill in this connexion is getting ready, the fundamental objective thereof being the abolition of the zamindari system, the conversion of zamindari tenure into ryotwari tenure and the reduction in the rates of land tax in ryotwari and the quandom zamindari areas. What is urgently necessary, however, is to prohibit certain activities on the part of the zamindars, which are calculated to encourage and provide justification for counter-activities on the part of the tenants. So long as the existing system has legal sanction behind it, it is the State's function to guarantee and ensure protection for it and not to permit a particular section of the community to abuse those rights or another section to disregard them and to take the law in its own hands.

THE Madras Revenue Minister has explained in a statement the need at this juncture for invoking the special powers of His Excellency the Governor, and he struck a note of warning to the zamindars as well as to the tenants and others which must be taken to heart by them. The Ordinance does not have a retrospective effect, but if the movement to circumvent the provisions of the Ordinance persists or if it does not achieve its declared objective, the legislation to be introduced will be so framed as to cover retrospectively, all cases of suchdisregard.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Collection of Swamp Salt in Vedaranyam

Under the existing conditions of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, the collection of swamp salt is permitted in the Vedaranyam area under certain limitations. One of them is the restriction of the period of collection to two periods of one week each during a year. (In practice the 2 periods are allowed to run together). Another condition is that, in this period, as soon as the quota fixed for each village on a population basis is scrapped, further collection of swamp salt should be stopped forthwith. For the year 1947, the District Collector of Tanjore had fixed the period from 1st July 1947 to 14th July 1947 for the collection of swamp salt from the swamp adjoining the Vedaranyam area in this province. The Government have received numerous representations that the restrictions referred to above should be relaxed this year in view of the prevailing scarcity of salt in certain areas in this province and also the short production that is feared in case weather conditions prove to be unfavourable. The Government of India were, therefore, moved in the matter and they have since agreed to extend the period for the collection of swamp salt in the Vedaranyam area by 15 days from 15th July 1947 and to permit the removal of salt during this period by headloads to any distance and in any quantity irrespective of any village quotas that may have been fixed.

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Ration for Marriage Feasts

The Government of Madras in the Food Department have issued the following order in supresession of the order, dated 7th August 1946 :—

No person shall provide food or cause or allow food to be provided at any marriage party on the marriage day for more than two principal meals or for more than fifty persons at each such meal. In reckoning the fifty persons referred to above, the bride, the bridegroom, the relations of either and the guests shall be included. The term "food" does not, however, include drinks or parched gram or nuts or fruits or biscuit and cakes made of non-cereals. In regard to the provision of food at marriage parties on days other than the marriage day, the provisions of the Government Order, dated 17th December 1946, shall continue to apply.

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Movement of Foodgrains

Government have promulgated the Madras Wheat, Rice, Blackgram, Sugar Preparation (Movement Control) Order whereby export of these articles outside the province has been prohibited except under and in accordance with a permit issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or any one duly authorized by him. The Order, however, gives exemption in certain specified cases. For example, *bona fide* travellers are at liberty to carry these articles for their personal consumption for a stipulated period. Charitable organizations like hospitals and Red Cross can also export these articles without a permit. Vessels containing these articles and plying in a coastal run to any place in India outside the province are also exempt from the operation of this Order. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies is also competent to grant exemption in individual cases subject to such conditions as he may deem fit to impose. Applications for permits under the order have to be sent in writing in the prescribed form. Contravention of the provisions of the Order will result in the confiscation of the articles sought to be exported besides rendering the offender liable to any other punishment as the Court may impose.

On similar lines, Government have also promulgated the Madras Foodgrains (Movement Control) Order which concerns the export of paddy, rice, wheat, cholam, kambu, korra, ragi, bengalgram, horsegram, redgram, greengram, blackgram, barley, maize and rye. The export of these articles outside the province has also been regulated by permits issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or anyone authorized by him. The procedure in respect of and punishment for violation of this order are analagous to those of the Madras Wheat, Rice, Black-gram and Sugar Preparations (Movement Control) Order.

Transport of Rice for Personal Use

The Government have relaxed the rules regulating the transport of rice for personal consumption from any place in any one of the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly to any other place within the Province of Madras and from the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput to the Madras City in the following manner :—

Landholders can in future import either paddy or rice according to their convenience. The transport may be made in two half-yearly instalments instead of in four quarterly instalments as hitherto. The quantity of rice to be transported in each half year should, however, be limited to the quantity which the applicant and his family including servants are eligible to receive as rations for six months or 24 maunds rice in 12 bags, whichever is less. If import is made in the shape of paddy, the quantity should be limited to 1½ times the quantity of rice by weight required as rations for the applicant and his family including his servants for six months or 36 maunds whichever is less.

Pending amendments to the notification, Collectors have been asked to give effect to the above orders forthwith.

A person who imports rice from his lands for personal consumption should intimate to the concerned Rationing Officer or such officer as the Collector may nominate, the date of arrival of the consignment within ten days of its arrival.

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20 oz. of Millet to be Issued

The Government recently reduced the scale of ration to rice-eaters from 10 oz. to 8 oz. with effect from 13th July 1947 and directed that potatoes should be issued in the statutory rationed areas and groundnuts in the rural rationed areas to make up for the reduced ration. During the recent visit of the Hon'ble Minister for Food to Delhi, the Government understood that sufficient quantities of millets would be made available to this province by the Government of India in the coming months. The Government have therefore decided with effect from 20th July

1947 to issue 2 oz. of millets to rice-eaters besides 8 oz. of rice, both in the statutory and in the rural rationed areas. Instructions to this effect are being issued to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies). If sufficient stocks of millets are not available in any district to issue millets from 20th July 1947 the additional rations will be issued as soon as enough stocks of millets are sent to each rationed area. The Government have decided to give up the distribution of groundnuts in view of this development. Mixed diet-eaters will continue to get 3 oz. of rice and 7 oz. of millets and millet-eaters 1 oz. of rice and 9 oz. of millets. They will be given 12 oz. of millets if they buy millets only.

Cloth Ration for Students

For the benefit of students and others who have come to stay in towns and cities in recent months after the introduction of the cloth rationing scheme, and who have not drawn their cloth rations for the year anywhere and desire to draw it at the place where they are now staying, the following information is published :—

Applications for new Cloth Ration Cards should be made to the Collector of the district in a form which can be had from the Collector.

Claims will not be considered unless a permanent Food Ration Card standing in the name of the applicant is produced.

Applications of persons staying in hotels, boarding houses, hospitals, hostels, etc., and taking meals in what are called 'establishments' under the Food Rationing Rules, and consequently having no Food Ration Cards, should be supported by a certificate from the head of the 'establishment' in a prescribed form. The form of the certificate can be had from the Collector of the district.

Cut in Firewood Ration Continues

In the Press Note issued on 10th June 1947 the Government announced a 25 per cent cut in the normal scale of firewood ration in the City of Madras for a period of one month from the third quarter of June 1947. As the supply position of firewood in the City still continues to be unsatisfactory, the Government have decided to continue the cut for another month commencing from the third quarter of July 1947.

Special Rations During Ramzan

Instructions have been issued to all Collectors and Rationing Officers, to issue as in previous years special rations on a limited scale to mosques during Ramzan for making kanjee for distribution to those Muslims who come to mosques for prayers and have to break their fasts there. This will be issued in the shape of broken rice only and in whole rice when brokens are not available. The rations will be issued only to the Trustee or the persons in charge of the mosques and if the quantity allowed is regarded as insufficient by them it is open to them to arrange for contributions of rice by individual Muslims from day to day, to supplement the quantity so allowed, which should be the minimum necessary to provide kanji for the usual estimated congregation.

In Madras City a small firewood ration will also be allowed.

Development

Wynaad Colonization

In G.O. No. 5024, Development, dated 21st December 1945, Government approved a scheme for colonization involving the development of lands to the extent of 28·329 acres in Wynaad taluk, Malabar district. An Administrative Officer was appointed to be in charge of the scheme for co-ordinating the work of the various departments concerned in the scheme. It is mainly intended for the settlement of ex-service men and the entire cultivable area is to be developed, so that the production of essential articles of food could be increased.

The Public Works department has started preliminary work on formation of roads and the construction of quarters for the staff employed in the scheme, including huts for labourers. The Ad-hoc Committee had recommended the construction of semi-permanent buildings, but the Government have now ordered that permanent buildings at minimum cost might be put up, evidently because the permanent buildings are being prepared.

An investigation of the water-supply arrangements for the colony sites and for the lay-out of the colony sites which are mostly situated in hilly country has been taken up, and when the surveys are completed the lay-out will be finalized in consultation with the Director of Town-Planning.

Araku Valley Scheme

A scheme for the colonization and development of the lands in Araku Valley in Vizagapatam Agency was approved in G.O. No. 3373, Development, dated 3rd August 1944, and is being carried out under the administrative control of the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam. The idea in developing the valley is to eradicate Malaria in the locality and to bring the lands there under cultivation so that the production of essential foodstuffs, etc., could be increased. Owing to its elevation, the land is suited for the cultivation of potatoes and vegetable crops, for which a ready market will be found in the Vizagapatam and Southern districts. The valley being almost entirely undeveloped gives scope for the planning of a model colony on up-to-date lines. The permanent plan envisages the building of quarters for the staff attached to the Medical, Agricultural, Revenue and Public Health Departments, and of a Hospital, anti-malarial Laboratory, Offices for Agricultural and other Officers, store rooms for grains, implements, etc.

As a preliminary, roads and bridges have to be laid and temporary quarters built for the staff who are to build the buildings required for the colony. These temporary buildings have been built. The estimate for roads has been submitted to Government. The estimate for the Isolation ward attached to the hospital has been sanctioned. The Government are expected to pass orders on the main scheme shortly.

Admission to Agricultural Colleges

Correspondence is published in the Press regarding the selection of candidates for the two Agricultural Colleges in the province. The two colleges have 96 seats each and of the total number of 192 seats 183 seats were filled up by candidates belonging to the province. The remaining 9 seats were given to five candidates from Orissa and four candidates from Cochin and Coorg. The candidates selected from this province are made up of 48 Brahmans, 105 Non-Brahman Hindus, 14 Muslims, 15

Christians and 1 Harijan. All the Christian, Muslim and Harijan candidates, who were found fit, have been selected. In this connexion, it was pointed out in the press that more latitude was shown to students belonging to towns as compared to those hailing from the villages.

The Government wish to point out that generally preference in the matter of admission is given to candidates belonging to the agricultural class. There is a column in the application form for admission to agricultural colleges where information is sought to be elicited regarding the landed properties held by a candidate's family. Due regard was paid to the information furnished in this column when candidates were selected. Strictly speaking, the line of demarcation between urban and rural candidates is not immutable and there are practical difficulties in discovering *bona fide* candidates who are sons of ryots and who are really interested in agriculture. However, all normal precautions were taken to see that only such of those who had an agricultural tradition behind them and who were really interested in Agriculture were given admission.

As regards the Veterinary College, there is provision for 100 students in the college. Ninety belonging to the Province have been chosen in the recent selection and 10 from outside. Tamil Nad got 42 seats, Andhra districts 33, Malabar 8, South Kanara 3, Madras 1 and the balance of three seats were given to War Service candidates. Originally Malabar had only 6 seats, and War Service candidates were alloted 9. But only 3 ex-service men turned up, and the remaining six seats were re-allotted, 2 f r Andhra, 2 for Tamil and 2 for Malabar areas. The 90 candidates selected from this Province are made up of 27 Brahmans, 47 Non-Brahman Hindus, one Anglo-Indian, 11 Christians, 5 Muslims and 1 Harijan. There was a dearth of candidates from the Harijan Community.

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Provincial Firka Development Officer

Government have recently created the post of the Provincial Firka Development Officer and have appointed Sri G. Venkatachalapathy to the post. His chief functions will be to execute the schemes for village reconstruction in the firkas and centres selected for intensive rural reconstruction work. He will also be the Secretary of the Provincial Firka Development Advisory Board proposed to be constituted by the Government shortly. The post of Assistant Development Commissioner, Southern Range, is vacant, Mr. Vinayagam having resigned. The Provincial Firka Development Officer will also attend to the duties attached to that post.

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Essentiality Certificates

The Government have decided to transfer the powers of the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, to sign essentiality certificates in respect of applications for pipes for the categories mentioned below, to the Joint Secretary, Development Department. At present such applications are certified by the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, as to the essentiality of the demands and forwarded to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, for issue of permits. The categories referred to are :—

(1) for the manufacture of tube-well strainers and sinking of tube-wells ;

(2) Boiler tubes ;

(3) Municipalities, district and local boards ;

(4) Communications and buildings;

(5) Public utility concerns ; and,

(6) Industries, Firms and others not included in any of the above categories.

Applications for pipes for domestic demands are certified by Collectors up to 200 feet for any one demand.

The Government of India have decided that from 1st July 1947, steel pipe tubes and fittings for certain categories specified in the prescribed application form inclusive of those mentioned above will be released in this Province against permits to be issued by the Provincial Steel Control on approved stockists. A quota of 74,000 feet of pipes and tubes with corresponding fittings has been allotted to the Province for the third quarter of 1947, to be supplied by the Madras Circle Pipe Dealers' Association. The Government have directed that the Provincial Steel Controller, i.e., the Director of Industries and Commerce, shall in future issue permits for pipes for categories referred to on receipt of applications in the prescribed form duly certified by the advisory authority as to the essentiality of the demands. Applications for boiler tubes will, however, be continued to be sent to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, as at present.

The Heads of Departments and the Special Officers of the District Boards, Commissioners of Municipalities and Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, shall hereafter submit applications for pipes required by them for the categories mentioned above to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development, through the administrative departments of the Secretariat concerned, who will scrutinise and forward the applications to Government with their remarks. Applications after being certified will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller as the case may be for issue of permits.

The Collectors are requested to forward all applications certified by them for domestic demands direct to the Director of Industries and Commerce. They are also requested to see that only extremely essential cases are thus sent, limiting the demands to the bare minimum in each case.

Applications for pipes for non-Government public utility concerns and industries, firms and others not mentioned in any of the categories referred to above shall be submitted to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development. They will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller as the case may be for issue of permits after being certified.

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Communal Clash in Nellore

According to a report received by the Government, there was a minor communal clash in Nellore on the 2nd July night, in which one person was stabbed, as is suspected, for gain. There was another stabbing incident on the afternoon of 3rd July. Reserve police have been mobilized and the situation is returning to normal.

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Producers-cum-Consumers Societies.

The public are aware that the Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies were brought into existence primarily with the object of giving impetus to the procurement of all surplus paddy available in the four circars districts, with the ultimate intention of retaining them as a permanent feature and of converting them into useful multi-purpose co-operative institutions. But the Government had regretfully to suspend the procuring agency given to these societies and

restore the work to the previous procuring agencies in the four districts for the reasons explained in the Press Note, dated 23rd April 1947. In the same Press Note, the Government expressed their desire to put the societies to the best use possible with the large share capital collected by them and indicated their decision to appoint a special agency to examine the question. The Government have now appointed a Committee to consider the question as to how these societies can be reorganised and rehabilitated so as to make them useful to the community and to fit them into the co-operative organizations now functioning. A Special Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies has already been appointed for the collection of the necessary information, which may be required by the Committee.

It has, however, come to the notice of Government that there is some apprehension in the minds of some of the shareholders of these societies, that they would be liquidated. The Government, therefore, desire to make it clear once again that it is not their intention to liquidate the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies and that it has always been their intention to reform and reorganise these societies and that it is for this purpose that they have appointed a Committee. Government request the members of these societies not to be carried away by rumours or propaganda to the contrary and take precipitate action such as withdrawal or voluntary liquidation but await the recommendation of the Committee.

Education

Madura Municipal Teachers' Strike

The Government would like the public to have a proper appreciation of the history of the Madura Municipal teachers' strike. At a time when the Government had given earnest consideration to the demands of teachers and even in the middle of the year had taken the extraordinary step of revising the scales again, the Madura Municipal teachers alone thought it fit to give notice of strike to the Government. The other Provincial and District Teachers' Associations considered the matter and were withdrawing their strike notices and the Madura Municipal Council teachers alone persisted in going through the strike. Their original demands were two. (1) That they must be paid on Government scales, and (2) that the city rent allowance must also be given to them.

The Government wanted to take a very sympathetic view of the matter and passed orders in regard to the first and are considering the second. The Premier also when he met them at Madura promised to consider their demands very sympathetically. In spite of this, the teachers were not satisfied but continued to make further demands. The Commissioner and the Special Officer of the Municipality asked for explanation from the teachers individually and the Secretary of the Association wrote a letter to the Commissioner, which if accepted would mean the negation of all discipline. No Government worth the name can allow its servants to say that they are not prepared to give an explanation for anything that they do. If any Government is to run in this country it must be built on discipline. Especially at a time like this when transfer of power is being contemplated, what is wanted is discipline. When the Commissioner asked for explanation from the striking teachers, it was not the intention of Government to humiliate any of the teachers but only to observe the rules.

The Government do not want anybody to go into sack cloth and ashes but they must insist upon certain forms of discipline being observed. Even now the Government do not think it is too late. If the teachers would come forward to give an explanation, the Government have no doubt that the Commissioner will consider their cases sympathetically.

Extension to Andhra Medical Colleges

The Government have approved schemes of improvement and extensions to the Andhra Medical College and the King George Hospital at Vizagapatam. The Surgeon-General has been requested to obtain and submit urgently detailed plans and estimates for schemes which have not already been sanctioned. He has been asked not to incur any expenditure on schemes not already sanctioned for execution until detailed plans and estimates have been approved by the Government and the Legislature has allotted funds.

The question whether an infectious disease hospital to provide for 48 beds at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,21,500 is required for the purpose of teaching the students of the Andhra Medical College is also to be examined in detail.

Minimum Pay for Lower Elementary Trained Teachers

The Government have decided that Lower Elementary Grade trained teachers should be given a minimum salary of Rs. 20 a month.

In a Government Order, dated 5th June 1947, the Government ordered that managements of Elementary schools should supplement the grants assessed from Provincial funds on behalf of Higher Elementary and Secondary Grade trained teachers so as to enable the teachers to receive a minimum pay of Rs. 30 and 40 a month respectively. They now consider that Lower Elementary Grade trained teachers also should be given a minimum salary of Rs. 20 a month, i.e., the management should supplement the grant paid from Provincial funds by at least Rs. 2 a month. These orders will take effect from 1st July 1947.

The Director of Public Instruction is authorized to grant extension of time in suitable cases.

Revenue

Concessions Granted

The Government have sanctioned the proposal of the Collector, Kurnool, for the grant of a remission for fasli 1356, at the rate of 75 per cent in the three villages of Gundarevula, Kondapuram and Palukudoddi, in Kurnool taluk, where owing to adverse seasonal conditions the average outturn of the crop is below 4 annas and above 2 annas. The concession on the scale mentioned above will also apply to unobjectionable cases of *sivayijama* cultivation, minor inam lands charged with quit-rent or *jodi* equal to or more than the full assessment on lands assigned temporarily.

The Government have also sanctioned the following concessions in respect of minor inam lands :—

If the favourable quit-rent or jodi payable on a minor inam land is less than or equal to what, after the grant of remission, is payable on a similar

(*Continued on page 9*)

Miscellaneous

Cost of Living Index

During the week ended 5th July 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City rose by one point to 270 owing mainly to an increase in the price of coconut oil.

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Harijan Uplift Committees

District Advisory Committees are now functioning in connexion with the amelioration of communities eligible for help by the Labour department. In future these committees will be known as district Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees. They will consist of not more than six non-official members and the Collector of the district will be the chairman. The term of office of the non-official members will be three years. In this connexion, Government have also nominated the non-official personnel of the Committees in Salem, Malabar, Kistna and South Arcot.

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Madras Presidency Administration Report

The Madras Presidency Administration Report for 1944-45 was published in two parts under the titles 'Madras in 1945' and 'Madras Administration Report, 1944-45,' the former containing in a readable form a general summary of the more important features of the year 1945 in the various departments of the Government. In order to make the information contained in it available to persons who do not know English, it has been translated into Tamil and Telugu and issued in booklet form by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras.

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Interim Relief to Transport Workers

In February 1947, the Government constituted a Court of Enquiry to go into all the problems connected with the working conditions of labour in Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, etc., in the Province. As the final report of the Court was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government referred the question of interim relief for adjudication. After enquiry, the adjudicator recommended certain scales of relief and his recommendations were accepted by the Government and enforced on the parties. Government have received complaints that the managements of many motor services and motor transport workshops have not paid the interim relief recommended by the adjudicator. The Government make it clear to the parties concerned that, if the adjudicator's award is not given effect to immediately, action will be taken against the defaulters for failure to implement the award of the adjudicator.

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Quinine Rationed

A quantity of 72,722 boxes of quinine-de-hydrochloride ampules were rationed for distribution in the Madras province for 1946-47. Out of this quantity only 29,235 boxes were distributed during 1946-47 and there was a balance of 43,487 on 31st March 1947. The Government have decided that this stock should be rationed as below:—

Government Local Fund and Municipal medical institutions—15,000 boxes.

Private medical practitioners—7, 000 boxes.

Private hospitals and dispensaries—3,000 boxes.

Employers of plantation labour—4,000 boxes.

Members of the general public—14,000 boxes.

And 487 boxes to be in reserve with the Government.

There will be no district-war rationing of ampules during the current year.

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Information Bureau for Ex-servicemen

The Government have decided to abolish the Information Bureaux and the Sub-Information Bureaux established at the headquarters of each district and of each taluk respectively in eleven heavily recruited districts and in particular taluks of the other districts in which there are numerous ex-service men and women. This staff was sanctioned in February 1946 for contacting ex-servicemen and supplying information to them with regard to their employment, conditions of service, etc.

The Director of Resettlement and Employment pointed out the inadequacy of the Bureaux for this work on account of the limited staff sanctioned for them and suggested their reorganization, as it was not possible for the regular staff in the taluks to attend to the extra-duty of contacting ex-servicemen. In the meantime the Government re-organized the Branch Employment Offices into the District Employment Offices, by which each district except Nilgiris has an employment office functioning from 1st January 1947 with Special Assistants to Collectors regularly touring in the taluks for contacting ex-servicemen. In addition to this the Government of India have already appointed a Regional Public Relations Officer and nine Assistant Public Relations Officers for the purpose of popularizing the employment of demobilized personnel in private employment and for canvassing private employers. There are also three Assistant Directors of Employment, who contact employers and ex-servicemen during their tours and supply such information to the demobilized persons as may be useful to them for resettlement.

In these circumstances the Government considered that there was no necessity for the Information Bureaux and sub-Information Bureaux.

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Aboriginal Tribes.

The Government of Madras have passed orders dissolving the Committee set up in November 1946 to investigate into the conditions of the Aboriginal Tribes in the province of Madras. The Secretary of the Committee has been requested to submit a report on the work done so far from the available data. He has also been requested to intimate the minimum staff required for the preparation of the report and to disband the surplus staff immediately.

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Cost of Living Index

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for June 1947 was 269.

The index for the food group fell by one point to 299 due mainly to a fall in the price of dhall.

The group indices in respect of fuel and lighting, clothing, house-rent and miscellaneous remained unchanged at 257, 304, 154 and 249 respectively.

National Savings

Subscriptions received from all over the province towards National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 14th June 1947 is Rs. 28,11,190. The figure for the period ended with 21st June 1947 is Rs. 30,28,455. Tanjore tops the list with Rs. 8,06,115. Madras comes next with Rs. 4,25,490 and South Kanara follows with Rs. 2,89,250. The contribution from Nellore is the lowest, the amount being Rs. 12,195.

Cost of Living Index in Mufassal

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low-paid employees at the different mufassal centres in the Province of Madras for the month of June 1947 :—

Vizagapatam ..	277·4
Ellore	340·3
Bellary	291·8
Cuddalore	285·1
Trichinopoly ..	295·0
Madura	288·2
Coimbatore ..	289·0
Calicut	349·2

Public Order Act: Advisory Council

The Government of Madras have constituted an Advisory Council, under Section 3 (3) of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947, consisting of the following members :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Shahab-ud-din, I.C.S.—Chairman.

Sri K. Raja Iyer, B.A., B.L., Advocate-General—Member.

Sri T. R. Venkatrama Sastri, C.I.E.—Member.

The Advisory Council is requested to submit its report on the various cases of persons detained under the Act after considering the materials placed before it and after calling for such further information from the Government or from the persons concerned as it may deem necessary.

Term of Municipal Councillors Extended

In March 1947, the Government ordered that the term of office of the Councillors and Aldermen of the Corporation of Madras should be extended up to the 31st day of July 1947. As it is not likely that elections to the Council of the Corporation can be completed before 1st November 1947, the Government have now decided to extend the term of office of the Councillors and Aldermen of the Corporation up to 1st November 1947.

(*Continued from page* 7)

ryotwari land no remission will be admissible. In other cases, so much of the quit-rent or jodi will be remitted as to ensure that what is collected is the same, after the grant of remission, as is liable to be collected on similar ryotwari land.

In the case of minor inam wet lands, the full quit-rent or jodi will be remitted, provided the lands have been left waste or the crops on them have been totally lost on account of the deficiency of water-supply. The grant of the remission will be subject to the conditions applicable to such remission on ryotwari lands.

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Malwan, Kanhangad, Mysore, Ratnagiri, Payyanur
Bangalore City, Belgaum, Taliparamba, Shimoga
Nipani, Cannanore, Davangere, Dharwar
Bellary, Arsikere, Hubli, Hospet, Chikmagalur, Byadgi, Adoni
Gadag, Cuddapah, Bijapur, Proddatur, Bagalkot, Secunderabad
Kurnool, Sholapur, Nandyal, Cochin, Jammalamadugu, Alleppey

RESOURCES EXCEED Rs. 4,25,00,000

T. A. PAI, B. Com. (Bom.),
A.I.I.B., F.R.E.S. (Lond.),
General Manager.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 30th June

The Government of Madras have sanctioned the appointment of two Labour Officers for a period of one year from the date of employment for plantations in Salem and Madura districts and for Malabar and Nilgiris districts.

The Government of Madras have accepted the recommendations of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. Hoe and Company, Madras and Trichinopoly.

The management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, opened the mills on 12th June 1947 and gave time till 19th June 1947 for the workers to join duty. About 11,700 workers resumed work up to 19th June 1947. The mill is now working with its normal strength.

The Government of Madras have accepted the views of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of Sri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills, Periyanaicken-palayam, Coimbatore (referred for adjudication in G.O. Ms. No. 1429, Development Department, dated 31st March 1947). The Coimbatore District Textile Workers Union, Singanallur, has withdrawn the claim for wages for the period of closure of the factory from 20th November 1946 to 12th January 1947 for repairs to machinery.

The workers of Sri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills, Periyanaickenpalayam, Coimbatore, who struck work on 22nd April 1947 resumed work on 23rd June 1947. The dispute has been referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication.

The management of Sri Ramalinga Choodambikai Mills, Tiruppur, have lifted the lockout on 21st June 1947 which was declared on 11th June 1947. The reeling section was opened on 21st June 1947 and the other sections of the mill were opened on 23rd June 1947.

The manager of Sri Ramachandra Spinning and Weaving Mills, Pandalapaka, has notified that the mills will be closed from 1st July 1947 as they are not in a position to run the mills under present conditions of high wages, etc.

The Proprietor of Angu Vilas Scented Tobacco and Cigar Factory, Dindigul, reports that 75 per cent of his workers struck work on 25th June 1947 on his warning them that he would close the factory if they persisted in their go-slow tactics. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been instructed to advise the workers to resume work and to await the orders of Government on the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry.

About 600 teachers including 200 women belonging to 68 municipal elementary schools in Madura town struck work on 25th June 1947, demanding a minimum salary of Rs. 35 with house allowance and revision of scales. The reports of the Municipal Commissioner and the Labour Officer, Madura, are awaited.

The management of the Rajah Mills, Madura, have reconsidered their decision to close the night shift in the Mills from 16th June 1947, and have decided to continue the night shift.

The Government of Madras have turned down the demand of the workers of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for three months' bonus.

The Government of Madras have referred the question of payment of bonus and victimization of workers of the West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Calicut, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar) for adjudication in addition to the other issues on which he is adjudicating as per orders issued on 6th March 1947.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of St. Vincent's Industrials, Calicut, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar) for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, Malabar district, to the Industrial Tribunal at Coimbatore (Sri C. R. Krishan Rao, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The workers of the Thunoli Mills, Cannanore, struck work on 18th June 1947. The Commissioner of Labour during his visit to Cannanore advised the workers to resume work pending the result of the courts of inquiry for oil mills and handloom industry in the Province. The workers resumed work on 26th June 1947.

About 700 boat workers of Tuticorin struck on 23rd June 1947 at 9 a.m. without notice, demanding full payment of detention charges, 50 per cent of the earnings after deducting Cochin income-tax and regular monthly payments. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Tuticorin, is trying to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of Nellimarla Jute Mills Company, Limited, Nellimarla, Vizagapatam district.

About 700 workers of the Hindustan Construction Company, Vizagapatam, struck work on 16th June 1947 as a protest against the transfer of certain union officials to Bombay, and demanding higher wages, dearness allowance, etc.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Hindustan Construction Company to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri P. Markandeyulu, Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Madras) for adjudication.

The General Secretary of the Scindia Shipyard Labour Union has given a notice of strike to the management of the Scindia Shipyard, Gandhigram, Vizagapatam, making 31 demands.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri P. Markandeyulu, Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Madras) for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have referred the question of the closure of the Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry, to an Industrial Tribunal (the District and Sessions Judge, East Godavari) for adjudication. The Government have also prohibited the continuance of the lockout in the factory.

Fourth All-India Cotton Forecast, 1946-47

A telegram received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, places the fourth all-India forecast of the area under cotton for 1946-47 and yield respectively at 14,608,000 acres and 3,515,000 bales, indicating an increase of 1 per cent and 3 per cent as compared with the corresponding revised forecast of last year.

Rice Ration Revised

As the procurement of paddy and rice has declined week by week and as there is no likelihood of any appreciable allotment of rice to this Province from the Government of India, it has become necessary to further reduce the scale of rations to rice-eaters. It is therefore ordered that the following scale and composition should be followed on and from 13th July 1947 :—

I. In all areas in the Province except Malabar—

Rice eaters—Up to 8 oz. of rice.

Millet eaters—Up to 12 oz. of millets or maize, etc., or up to 1 oz. of rice *plus* 9 oz. of millets or maize, etc.

Mixed diet eaters—Up to 12 oz. of millets or maize, etc., or up to 3 oz. of rice *plus* 7 oz. of millets or maize, etc.

II. Malabar—

Up to 7 azhaks of rice (7·91 oz.).

NOTE.—Total ration per adult per day not to exceed the following :—

i. If taken entirely in rice 8 oz.

ii. If taken entirely in millets 12 oz.

iii. If taken in rice and millets 10 oz.

2. Habitual wheat and bread-eaters and people requiring bread on medical grounds should be allowed 8 oz. of whole wheat or wheat flour or 12 oz. of baker's bread per adult per day.

3. *Classification of cardholders.*—With the reduction in the rice content of the ration to millet and mixed diet eaters, there may be a tendency for the cardholders to change their classification into rice-eaters. The attention of the Rationing Officers and Collectors is drawn to Board's Reference No. 1592 Kl/45, dated 8th February 1946, and they are requested to see that the instructions therein to mark the ration cards of millets and mixed diet-eaters in red ink are strictly adhered to. On no account should the existing classification of the cardholders into rice-eaters, mixed diet and millets eaters be changed except in the following cases :—

(i) A rice-eater desiring to become a mixed or millet-eater.

(ii) A mixed diet-eater desiring to become a millet-eater.

The Collectors and Rationing Officers are informed that foreign maize is not a millet and that millet and mixed diet-eaters should not be compelled to purchase maize.

4. *Supplemental foodstuffs.*—Arrangements are being made to make available potatoes in all the ration shops in the statutorily rationed areas and groundnuts in the ration shops in the rural rationed areas. The cardholders may buy these commodities to make good the reduction in their rations. No limit need be placed on the quantity of these commodities which cardholders may buy.

5. *Landholders.*—As at present actual cultivators should continue to be permitted to retain or import 1 lb. per adult per day and non-cultivating landholders 10 oz. per adult per day.

6. *Meals hotels (catering establishments).*—The scale and composition of the rations allowed per meal per day is 4 oz. of rice. No maize or barley flour should be issued.

7. *Non-meal hotels.*—The scale and composition of the quota to these establishments shall continue to be as follows :—

Brokens if available—25 per cent or 1/4th of quota.

Maize and/or maize flour—41⅔ per cent or 5/12th of quota.

Barley flour—25 per cent or 1/4th of quota.

Wheat and wheat products (excluding maida)—8⅓ per cent or 1/12th of quota.

The taking of maize and barley flour is not compulsory.

8. *Industrial canteens.*—There is no change in the composition of the quota to these canteens which is as follows :—

Canteens opened before 1st May 1946—6 oz. of bread or 2 oz. of rice plus 2 oz. of maize, maize flour, wheat, wheat flour and/or barley flour.

Canteens opened after 1st May 1946 or to be opened hereafter—6 oz. of bread or 4 oz. of maize, maize flour, wheat, wheat flour and/or barley flour.

9. *Heavy manual labourers.*—The supplementary rations to heavy manual labourers shall continue to be 4 oz. per adult per day in the shape of maize, maize flour and/or barley flour.

10. *Extra rations for mid-day meal centres.*—The scale shall continue to be 4 oz. per child per day and shall be in the shape of rice, wheat, wheat products, maize, maize flour and/or millets in any proportion chosen by the authorities conducting the meal centres; but the issue of wheat and its products should be confined only to habitual eaters of wheat and its products or to those who require these cereals on medical grounds.

11. *Conversion tables.*—According to paragraph 1 above, the scale of ration varies with reference to each category of cardholders, viz., rice eaters (8 oz. of rice), mixed diet eaters (10 oz. of rice and millets) and mixed diet eaters (12 oz. of millets). As this is likely to lead to confusion, especially to the retail distribution, different conversion table for rice eaters, mixed diet eaters and millet eaters should be prepared. The Rationing Officers should work out conversion tables from 1 to 100 units and submit them to their District Rationing Officers for checking the correctness of the tables.

12. The above orders come into force on and from Sunday the 13th July 1947 and apply to both rural and statutorily rationed areas of the Province. The rural ration shops need not however keep potatoes for sale, but they will be required to keep groundnut instead.

On the Indian Food Front

The following quantities of foodgrains arrived in India from overseas during the week ended June 17 :—

	TONS.
Wheat (including flour)	16,400
Rice	4,300
Maize	7,500
Millets	600
Milo	8,800

The total arrivals of foodgrains from abroad since January 1, 1947 are as follows :—

	TONS.
Wheat	315,200
Flour	32,300
Rice	259,400
Maize	97,500
Millets	12,300
Barley	149,500
Milo	234,500
Oats	8,002

The Correct Method of Cooking Rice

Popular prejudice in favour of highly milled rice has persisted by a misleading association of ideas—whiteness and cleanliness. Actually undermilled rice is more nutritious than milled rice.

Parboiled rice has a higher nutritive value than raw milled rice because by parboiling some of the vitamins and other nutritive substances contained in the germ and the pericarp diffuse through the grains and cannot be removed by subsequent milling.

The usual practice of washing rice thoroughly before cooking results in a considerable loss of minerals and vitamins especially of the 'B' group. Rice of poor commercial quality naturally tends to be given more washing than rice of good quality, and the loss of mineral matter and 'B' vitamins from such rice may be very considerable. A single light washing of rice is therefore recommended instead of the usual two or even three washings that are at present given.

The extent of the loss in the food value of rice depends mostly on the number of washings and whether the cooking water is used or not. If rice is washed 3 times and cooked with liberal amounts of water about 75 per cent of iron and 50 per cent phosphorus, vitamin B and other vitamins of the B group originally present may be lost. It is the first washing which causes most of the loss and more vitamins pass into the washing water than into the water used in cooking.

Since the effect of washing of rice before cooking drastically reduces vitamins B (the beri-beri preventing vitamin) improvement in cleanliness in bazaars and shops where rice is exposed for sale would reduce the necessity for vigorous and repeated washing.

The ideal method of cooking rice is to use just enough water which would get fully absorbed in the rice. The correct amount of water will necessarily depend on the method of heating and the cooking quality of any particular variety of rice. Some kinds of rice will require less quantity of water than the others so as to get the proper consistency of cooked rice. If water is insufficient the rice will not be cooked properly while more water than what is necessary would result in excess water being left over. In cooking, therefore, the least possible amount of water should be used and if any excess water remains it should not be thrown away. This is often done in the households, with the result that valuable minerals and vitamins are lost. Any excess water left should be used in the preparation of vegetables, dhalls and other edibles like puddings. It may be pointed out that the time for cooking dhalls is reduced if the rice water is used instead of ordinary water.

Even though domestic steam cookers are being used in some households, it has not been generally realized even by educated householders that steam cooking of rice conserves practically the whole amount of edible matter. The easy method of educating people in this process would be to induce hotels and large boarding establishments to adopt steam cooking of rice. Steam cookers can be improvised at a cheap price.

The experiment of steam cooking is being carried out at the Square Meal Canteen in the Bombay Secretariat in order to ascertain whether steam cooking can save cereals in the long run and whether it is possible to introduce it efficiently with a little extra cost and with the aid of the cooking vessels generally in use in the catering establishments.

The present time, when supplies of cereals to hotels and establishments are controlled, is most opportune for initiating such measures. They, however, must mainly depend for being generally adopted, upon wide and persistent propaganda and publicity.

Summary

(*a*) Parboiled rice should be consumed in preference to raw rice.

(*b*) Rice should be given a single light washing with water before cooking.

(*c*) Either all the water used in cooking be absorbed by the rice or the excess water should be utilized in preparing other dishes like dhall, vegetable curries, etc.

(*d*) Steam cooking may be done wherever possible.

(*e*) The reforms may be introduced first in Government controlled institutions and large establishments like hotels, canteens, etc.

Cattle Health

There was a fall in mortality from contagious diseases among animals in the Province during the month of May 1947 as compared to April 1947. The total number of outbreaks reported and deaths recorded were 333 and 1,604, respectively, as against 308 and 1,873 in the previous month.

Rinderpest.—There was a considerable fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 27 outbreaks and 117 deaths as against 31 outbreaks and 131 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Vizagapatam and Godavari West.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—There was a considerable fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to April 1947. The figures being 100 outbreaks and 468 deaths as against 114 outbreaks and 703 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Kistna, Nellore, Tanjore, Madura and Malabar.

Black-quarter.—There was a considerable rise in the incidence of and mortality from the disease during the month as compared to the previous month the figures being 174 outbreaks and 937 deaths as against 131 outbreaks and 563 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Vizagapatam, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Chingleput, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Madura.

Anthrax.—Sixteen outbreaks with 81 deaths were reported during the months as against 16 outbreaks with 122 deaths in the previous month.

Foot and mouth.—Sixteen outbreaks with one death was reported during the month as against 16 outbreaks without any mortality in the previous month.

29 JUL 1947 MADRAS

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of June 1947

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in parts of West Godavari, Nellore, Chittoor and Coimbatore districts and of dry crops in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, Coimbatore and Ramnad. The outturn was generally fair.

Market Conditions and Trend of Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows :

No change.—Gingelly oilcake and groundnut oilcake.

Rise.—Groundnut (shelled) (2·0 per cent) ; gingelly seed (2·3 per cent) ; copra (6·7 per cent); coconut oil (4·2 per cent) ; groundnut oil (2·9 per cent) ; and cotton seed (2·6 per cent).

Fall.—Gingelly oil (0·7 per cent).

Procurement

The following statements show the quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the Province :—

(*a*) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 15th June 1947*—

	TONS.	
Paddy ..	49,292	Together equivalent to 59,037 tons on terms of rice.
Rice ..	24,608	
Millets ..	6,994	

(*b*) *Receipts from other provinces and states during the fortnight ending 30th June 1947*—

	TONS.
Rice	1,403
Millets	..
Wheat and wheat products.	..
Pulses—	
Blackgram	15
Redgram	285
Greengram	100
Bengalgram ..	2,530
Total ..	2,930

(*c*) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 30th June 1947*—Nil.

Stock and Supply.

Rice.—Procurement has been falling rapidly, being only 51,254 tons during the fortnight ending 26th June 1947 which is about 9,000 tons less than the procurement in the previous fortnight (i.e., fortnight ending 12th June 1947) which itself was about 10,000 tons less than that in the preceding fortnight (i.e., fortnight ending 29th May 1947). The stock on 26th June 1947 was 224,467 tons as against 243,761 tons on 12th June 1947. The position is not likely to improve till the next harvest in September at the earliest. Meanwhile some of the districts like Madura and South Kanara, which for the last few months have been depending on locally procured stocks, are finding it difficult to maintain themselselves solely on local resources and are seeking assistance from outside. The position in almost all the deficit districts continues to be unsatisfactory. The situation in Malabar and Coimbatore continues to be critical. At present there is no likelihood of appreciable imports arriving from outside the Province. In the circumstances a dangerous deterioration in the overall stock position is inevitable and to save the situation for the time being the overall ration throughout the province is being cut to 8 oz., from the middle of July 1947. Even so, it will be very difficult to avoid a breakdown of rationing in August unless supplies are received in time from outside sources.

Millets.—The stock of millets has fallen slightly from 24,896 tons to 23,045 tons on 3rd July 1947. This represents about two months supplies. The " Norway Victory " carrying 8,400 tons of American Milo is expected in Madras on July 3, and the "Andulusia" carrying 8,000 tons of American Milo is expected at Cochin in the second week of July. The greatest shortage of millets exists in Coimbatore and Vizagapatam. Generally, the stock position of millets may be regarded as satisfactory.

Maize.—The stocks of maize have fallen from 3,006 tons to 2,436 tons on 26th June 1947. The Mysore Government have now informed Madras that they cannot spare the quota of 1,000 tons previously promised. The off-take of maize is about 2,400 tons a month so that the present stocks should last for rather more than a month. No further imports of maize are expected in the near future.

Wheat.—Wheat stocks have gone down to 2,645 tons at the end of the fortnight. Arrangements are being made to import the newly allotted quota of 1,000 tons of wheat from Sind. Since the monthly off-take of wheat, even under the present system of restricted issues, is about 1,400 tons a month, the supply from Sind will not relieve the shortage in the province.

Wheat Products.—The wheat products stock position is unsatisfactory. The stock on 26th June 1947 was only 1,024 tons and no imports are expected. Shortage of wheat flour is reported from a number of towns including the City and even the stocks available are of poor quality.

Pulses.—The S.S. " Palamcottah " and the S.S. " Ferozabad " carrying a total of 1,599 tons of Bengalgram and products from Karachi arrived at Cochin during the fortnight. Further shipments are expected during the first fortnight of July. The Bengalgram quotas under the 1947–48 Rabi Plan have been reduced from 33,000 tons to 17,000 tons. The stock position of Bengalgram is good at the moment but unless further quotas are allotted, the supply position cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The redgram position continues to be unsatisfactory and arrangements to import the new quota of 4,000 tons from United Province as quickly as possible are being made. The greengram and Bengalgram stock position are generally satisfactory.

Rationing

Consequent on the fall in the overall stock position of foodgrains in the Province, the scale of rations to industrial canteens has been reduced from 6 oz. to 4 oz.

In view of the deteriorating stock position of maida, instructions have been issued to the Rationing Officers not to entertain applications for the opening of new bakeries even if they are received from ex-army men who were bakers before they joined the army.

Subsidiary Foodgrains

The control over the prices and movement of coconuts, copra and coconut oil was removed during the fortnight under review.

Miscellaneous Commodities.

Firewood was reported to be inadequate in Guntur, Coimbatore and Bezwada towns and in parts of Ramnad district.

Short supply of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Cuddapah and West Godavari.

Scheme for Nationalization of Motor Transport

It is a widely accepted principle now-a-days that public utilities should not be left to private enterprise but should be in the hands of the Government. Motor Transport is a public utility and as early as December 1944, the General Committee on Post-War Reconstruction recommended to the Government that public transport should be State-owned and State-managed. The recommendation received the earnest consideration of the Government last year and it was decided in December 1946 that in the best interests of the community at large the motor transport service in Madras Province should be nationalized. For suggesting the ways and means to give effect to this decision, the Government appointed a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Transport with certain other Ministers as members. Before the Committee could complete its work, there was a change of Ministry, necessitating the reconstitution of the Committee. In April 1947, a new Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister with the Minister for Transport and two other Ministers as members. The Committee considered the matter in all its aspects and drew up a scheme for the nationalization of Motor Transport. The main recommendations of the Committee have now been accepted by the Government and these are explained below.

2. In the first place it is necessary to emphasize that the primary object of nationalization is to provide an efficient and cheap transport service for the travelling public and to utilize the profits for the benefit of the community as a whole. It has therefore been decided that the Provincial Government should be the dominant partner in any scheme of nationalization. The railways will necessarily continue to be the backbone of the land transport system and for a healthy development of motor transport service, co-ordination between it and the railways should be established and wasteful competition avoided. To secure such co-ordination Government desire that the railways should be invited to participate in the scheme. As local bodies are interested in the welfare of the people, it has been decided that they should also be associated with the Government and the railways in the scheme. As regards private operators, although it has been suggested that existing operators will not participate unless they are given a major share, the Government, while not conceding this claim, wish to give some voice to them in the running of the new transport system. After considering the matter carefully the Government have decided on the following shares :—

	Percentage of the capital expenditure.
Provincial Government.	51
Local Bodies ..	20
Railways	15
Private operators ..	14

The shares of the operators will not be transferable but will be sold only to the Provincial Government or according to instructions which might be issued by them in this regard. If any money remains after payment of such dividend as may be fixed, not exceeding $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, to the financing parties, the Provincial Government will be free to utilize it in such a manner as they think fit. If the parties concerned do not take up shares up to the proportion mentioned above, the balance will be taken up by the Provincial Government.

3. As the day-to-day administration of a service of a commercial nature should be free from the rules and regulations to which the running of a Government Department is ordinarily subject, it has been decided that a Statutory Transport Board should be set up. The exact composition of this Board is still under consideration. It has further been decided that the day-to-day administration in each district should be vested in a single officer, viz., the District Transport Officer.

4. As regards the initiation of the scheme, the Government have after due consideration, decided that the passenger bus services in the Province should be nationalized first and later on, the lorry services. The consideration of the question whether taxi services should also be nationalized was deferred.

5. In pursuance of the plan set out above it has been decided that a beginning should be made with the passenger transport services in Madras City and that these should be taken over by 1st October 1947 or as soon after as possible. In respect of the mufassal areas (excepting the ghat routes) Government have under consideration the possibility of commencing their programme of nationalization from next year and complete it in a period of five years. As regards the ghat routes, the Government may take over the bus services from Madura to

The Premier speaking at the opening ceremony of the Madras Corporation Children's Orphanage at Rayapuram, on 9th July, 1947.

Kodaikanal and from Coimbatore to Ootacamund as early as possible. With reference to the ghat route services, Government are considering the question of taking over in addition the City Bus Services in Coimbatore and Madura so as to make them economic units. With reference to the method to be adopted for the gradual nationalization of transport in the mufassal, several alternatives were considered. One obvious course is to take over the bus service in the first year in a few districts adjoining Madras City, to extend the scheme in the second year to a further group of districts adjoining them, and so on, until all the districts are covered in a period of five years. Such extension of the scheme from one group of districts to another will make for administrative convenience but will result in an unequal treatment of existing operators in that some operators will continue to run their business while others will be completely ousted from the field. It is of course recognized that, in a matter of this kind, it is inevitable to displace some operators sooner than others, but it is felt that the scheme might be worked out as equitably as possible. It has therefore been decided that only 20 per cent of total number of permits should be taken over in each of the bigger districts in the first year and that in the second year another 20 per cent in these districts as well as 40 per cent in the remaining districts should be taken over. This process will be continued year after year until all the services are taken over. It has also been decided that care should be taken to see that the permits taken over, are as far as possible those which have expired or are about to expire and relate to a compact area, that, preferably the Town Services, where they exist, should be selected first, that if they do not provide the required quota, the routes proceeding to the adjoining places should be taken over to make up the 20 per cent. As regards displaced operators it has been decided that they might be allowed to run in areas not taken over by the Government as far as possible.

6. The nationalization of transport services in the manner mentioned above, may necessitate the cancellation of some of the permits current at the time of introduction of nationalization. After giving the matter the consideration it deserves, the Government have decided that no compensation should be paid for the past period for which a permit has been held. In the case of permanent permits that are valid at the time the Government acquire the transport service in a district, it has been decided that compensation may be paid on the Bombay Government's scale with reference to the unexpired period of validity of the permits, viz.,—

Rupees 1,000 for each permit when the permit had at the time of termination an unexpired validity of not less than 24 months;

Rupees 700 for each permit when the unexpired validity is not less than twelve months but less than 24 months;

Rupees 400 for each permit when the unexpired validity is not less than six months but less than twelve months;

Rupees 200 for each permit when the unexpired validity is less than six months.

The time-expired permits, permits for spare buses, and temporary permits will not be eligible for compensation.

7. The existing operators may not find use for their vehicles, premises and equipment when Government take over the transport services and the Government also will need them for running the service. The normal life of a vehicle is five years and, as contemplated in Bombay scheme, only vehicles which are not more than four years old and which are otherwise fit for further service will be purchased.

In order to determine which of the assets would be worthy of purchase and to fix the exact amount to be paid for them, the Government will appoint a Committee in each district with a technical expert thereon. The operators should intimate to this Committee within a prescribed time full particulars of the assets which they are ready to hand over and it would be open to them to sell or not to sell at the price fixed by the Committee.

Volume of Railway Traffic

I. **South Indian Railway.**—There has been a slight increase in the train services during June **1947**.

The train miles run in June 1947 as compared with those of June 1946 are shown below :—

Public Train Miles.	*June* 1946.	*June* 1947.
Coaching	670,352	817,315
Goods	260,998	261,849
Total ..	931,350	1,079,164

The increase is due to introduction of additional trains.

Details of traffic and earnings both passenger and goods carried during the month of June 1947 as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year are given below :—

Coaching Traffic.	*June* 1946.	*June* 1947.	*May* 1947.
Number of passengers ..	10,001,802	13,532,312	13,068,010
Earnings in Rupees	61,59,133	78,99,187	82,38,963
Goods Traffic.			
Weight in tons	515,453	485,809	540,446
Earnings in Rupees	46,34,317	44,73,521	43,63,964

The increase in passenger earnings is due to the marriage season, introduction of additional trains and increase in fares. The decrease in goods earnings is due to the lesser movement of rice and paddy, grain and pulses, oil-seeds, petrol, kerosene, cement and military goods.

II. **M. & S. M. Railway.**—The approximate earnings for May **1947** compared as under with those of May 1946.

	1946.	1947.
	RS.	RS.
Coaching Traffic	86,75,000	88,54,000
Goods Traffic	73,34,000	67,07,000
Miscellaneous	2,29,000	2,12,000
Total ..	1,62,38,000	1,57,73,000

The approximate volume of passenger and goods traffic during May 1946 and 1947 are as follows :—

	1946.	1947.
Number of passengers (all classes) ..	6,321,000	6,047,000
Goods traffic (in tons)	603,000	533,000

Threefold Increase in Quinine Planned

New Factory Proposed at Anamalais

With a view to increasing the production of quinine, the necessity for which was very keenly felt especially during the war period, Government early in 1943 decided on the construction of a factory at Anamalais amidst the cinchona plantations. A special Public Works Department Division was formed for the investigation and preparation of plans and estimates. These were got ready urgently and in December 1943, Government sanctioned the construction of the factory at an estimated cost of over Rs. 20 lakhs. The Director, Cinchona, was requested to arrange for the execution of the work with the help of this department. A special division has been formed for the purpose and is functioning. The scheme comprises the construction of an up-to-date factory for the manufacture of quinine. The layout has been so arranged that the raw bark is received in the bark sheds, passes through the disintegrator, the mixing and digester sheds, thence into the crude and refined units, then into the drying and despatching shed, and finally into the tablet machine by which time the finished article is produced ready for being put on the market, in the form of quinine tablets. In addition to the factory, quarters are being provided for the estate labourers, clerks, typists, store-keeper, foreman, fitters, engine drivers, factory overseers, assistant chemist and manu facturing chemist. An up-to-date hospital with the necessary staff has been provided.

Several sub-works in the scheme have been done and at present most of the buildings required for the factory are in the completion stages. Quarters for all the staff attached to the factory have been built except for the labourers, overseers, assistant chemist and manufacturing chemist. Work on the quarters for the staff attached to the hospital is just starting. It is estimated that when this scheme is completed, the production of quinine will be increased from 40,000 lb. to 120,000 lb. a year.

Post-War Schemes for Water-supply and Drainage

The expansion of protected water-supply and drainage to all municipalities and for all places having a population of 10,000 and over has been included by the Government in their post-war reconstruction and development scheme. The full plan of this scheme is to be carried out within a period of 20 years. It extends over the whole province. It covers 82 municipalities and 167 rural units including schemes now in operation. The first five-year period of the plan is intended to provide for—

(*a*) the completion of 30 water-supply schemes and 7 drainage schemes under execution ;

(*b*) the execution of 3 water-supply and 3 drainage schemes sanctioned by Government ;

(*c*) the execution of 11 water-supply schemes and 3 drainage schemes for which plans and estimates are ready and for which sanction is awaited ; and

(*d*) the execution of 16 water-supply schemes and 6 drainage schemes which are in different stages of investigation and design.

Based on the above plan it was programmed to complete in the first year of the first five-year plan 27 water-supply and 3 drainage schemes. But this programme could not be adhered to for lack of staff and materials. Also the estimates for some of the schemes (which were prepared long ago) needed revision consequent on the increase in the price of materials and the need in some cases to meet the requirements of the Bhore Committee Report. The schemes could not, therefore, be aken up immediately for execution. Appreciable progress was therefore not possible in the first year, viz., 1946–47, of the first five-year plan. It is expected that better progress may be made in the second year of the first five-year plan as it is hoped that the procurement of materials and staff may become easier.

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Questionnaire of the Harijan Welfare Committee

The Government have recently constituted a Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee with the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development as Chairman. The Committee has been requested to—

(*a*) formulate a 5-year plan for Harijan Welfare in all directions such as providing free house-sites, fresh water wells, sanitation, education, etc., and to draw up an immediate scheme for the utilization of the sum of one crore of rupees set apart for Harijan Welfare work ;

(*b*) to put forward suggestions regarding improvements to the Harijan Welfare work undertaken by the Labour Department ;

(*c*) to enquire into and report on the progress of the enforcement of the legislative measures in this field, and

(*d*) to examine the possibility of extending the work of the Labour Department in regard to Harijans, to other backward communities.

The Committee met for the first time on the 10th July and decided to invite public opinion on the matter for arriving at conclusions and submitting their report to Government. All persons and institutions interested in this work are therefore requested to send their views to the Secretary, Harijan Welfare Committee, Secretariat, Fort St. George, Madras, before the end of this month.

A sub-committee will also be touring the Province and visiting important centres to collect first-hand information on all these matters. The tour programme of this Sub-Committee will be published in the newspapers and those willing to give evidence or make representations will kindly intimate to the Secretary so that they may be duly informed of the time and place of the Committee's visit to their area.

The following is the questionnaire issued by the Committee :—

Questionnaire

I. *Five-year plan*—

1. What are the items of work that you would suggest in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 1 (*a*) above ?

2. What is the order of importance that you would give them ?

3. Would you like intensified work in selected areas, or would you like the scheme to be as wide and comprehensive as possible ?

4. Would you like the Government to take up these schemes by bearing the entire cost themselves, or would you like it to be on the grant-in-aid basis so that more persons can be benefited ?

5. Have you any practical suggestions to make regarding (1) colonization of landless Harijan labourers and (2) assignment of lands to them ?

6. What would you suggest to relieve the present large-scale indebtedness among the Harijans ?

7. What is the present position of the subsidiary industries once prevalent amongst the Harijans and what would you suggest to revive and improve the same ?

8. How are the present living conditions and habitations of the Harijans and the medical help available, and what are your suggestions for improving the same ?

9. What is the present state of unemployment amongst Harijans and what measures would you suggest to reduce the same ?

10. What would you suggest for raising the present standard of living of the Harijans ?

11. Any special disability which may require the immediate attention of Government.

II. *Improving the present work of the Labour Department—*

What is your opinion of the following. Suggest any modifications or improvements :—

(*a*) Whether the present set up of the Labour Department is adequate for the purpose, if not what would you suggest ?

(*b*) The schools run by the Labour Department.

(*c*) The hostels run by the Labour Department.

(*d*) The subsidized hostels, their present working, accommodation, and living conditions.

(*e*) The scholarships, boarding grants, non-recurring grants, etc., given by the department.

III. *The effect of the recent legislative measures on the abolition of untouchability—*

1. Do you think the present measures are enough for this purpose or do you want anything more ?

2. Have they been able to achieve their intended purpose ? If not why not ? What would you suggest to remedy them ?

3. Are these measures properly enforced ? If not how would you like them to be enforced ?

4. What other measures or details would you suggest for the complete eradication of untouchability ?

IV.—

1. What other communities would you like to include for similar help to be extended to them in view of their backwardness and what is the nature of help you would suggest ?

2. Would you like both these kinds of work to be done by one agency or separate agencies ?

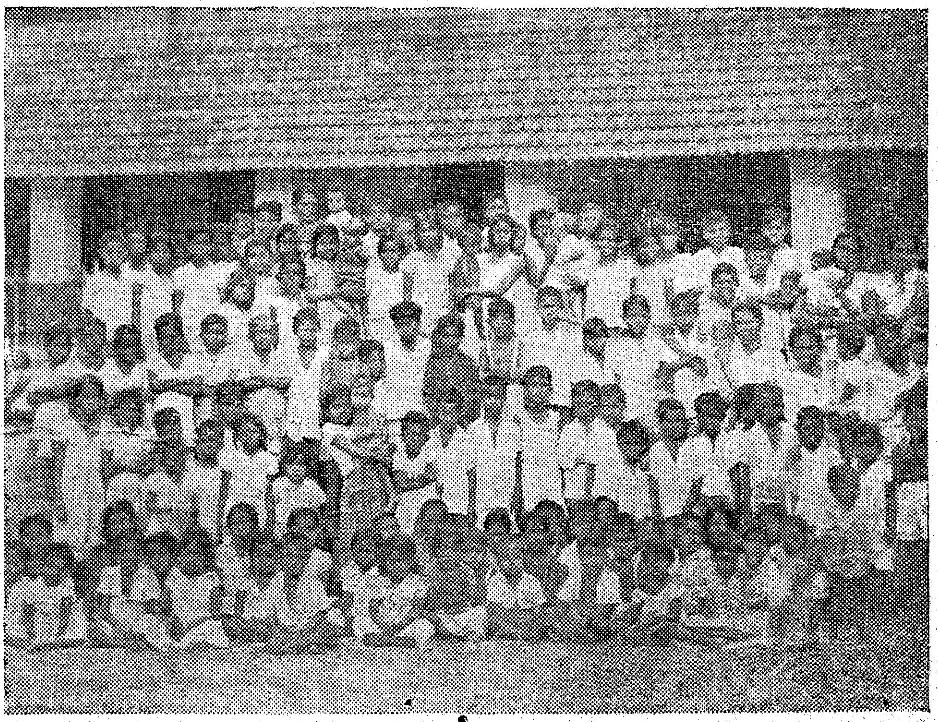
The Tellicherry Women Fishing Net Makers' Co-operative Society, Malabar

The Fisheries Department had in view, for a long time, the question of introducing the making of fishing nets as a subsidiary occupation for the Fishermen through the media of co-operative societies. The main obstacle in the way, however, has been the dearth of suitable men to work a society, if one was formed.

A society for developing cottage industry like net-making among fishermen requires persons who, not only have the capacity for managing the society, but also have sympathy for the backward members of the community. With the co-operation of Rev. M. F. Barboza, S.J., the Vicar of the Roman Catholic Church in Chalil, the Tellicherry Women Fishing Net-Makers' Society was started on 16th January 1943. The Vicar was elected as the first ex-officio president and he continues as such to this day.

The society began with 20 members on the rolls. It steadily gained in strength and popularity. On 31st December 1946 there were 105 members with a share capital of Rs. 727. The paid-up share capital of members is

Children of the members of the women fishing net makers' co-operative society



MADRAS

not inconsiderable when it is remembered that the members are all poor fisher-women who devote only their spare hours for net making. The share capital is paid by them out of the wages earned in small instalments.

The yarn required for net-making is purchased by the society. It is given to the members and they are allowed to take it to their homes for making nets. The finished products are given to the society and the members are paid wages for the nets prepared by them. In the beginning, the society used to pay the local rate of half anna for every piece of net (Kadam vala) made, but now it pays Re. 0-2-3 for each piece and Re. 0-6-0 for every skein of yarn twisted. Generally, the members are able to turn out 29 to 39 pieces of Kadam vala for every two skeins of thread and are paid Rs. 4-15-6 wages for 30 pieces. This includes also the twisting charges. If a woman utilizes her spare hours properly in this cottage industry she is able to earn about 5 annas a day. Members are also given bonus from profits after the close of the year on the basis of the wages earned by them.

The members of the society generally prepare three kinds of nets, Kadam vala, Aila Chala vala and Telum vala. There is good demand for all these varieties, the largest demand being for Kadam vala. The total number of Kadam vala manufactured upto 30th June 1944 was 1,605, in the second year 1,705, and in the third year (upto 30th June 1946) 4,893; thus making up a total of 8,203. The society also prepared 71 Aila Chala vala and 621 pieces of Telum vala during the period.

The society is now well known for its nets throughout Malabar. Fishermen from all parts of the district go to the society to purchase the nets required by them. The prices charged are reasonable and the quality is high. The Fisheries department also has been patronizing the society whenever possible. The deep-sea fishing section alone has purchased nets to the value of about Rs. 1,000 from the society. The Director of Fisheries, Bengal, paid a visit to the society and was pleased to see its nets. Immediately on his return to Calcutta, he placed an order for 990 (Kadam vala) nets. The fisher-folk of Bengal were well satisfied with the quality of the nets supplied and the prices charged.

The society has certainly helped and afforded opportunity to many a fisher-woman to earn a few annas a day by making nets during her spare hours. Even such of the persons who have the time and the mind to manufacture nets are not in a position to do it because of the scarcity of yarn and the control exercised in its distribution. But the society being a co-operative institution, its yarn requirements are made available by the Textile Controller. The society has been serving not only the women by giving them subsidiary occupation, but also the men who go to sea to fish by making available to them good nets, which it is so difficult to procure now. The development of the society has been mainly due to the interest taken in it by its ex-officio president, Fr. Barboza. This cottage industry has been very useful to the women folk in providing work to them and enabling them to supplement the income to the family from fishing.

Hand-Made Paper Industry

Government's Efforts to Develop the Industry

The Government of Madras have been eager to develop the hand-made paper industry since the official year 1934-35. Demonstration parties were first sent throughout the Province to popularise the industry and they succeeded in their object of creating interest in the public with the result that many small concerns have sprung up. Later, efforts were made to introduce some modern labour-saving devices and implements.

In 1943 the Government decided upon a programme to develop this industry on a large scale. The appointment of a Special Officer for the hand-made paper industry and a Paper Specialist for the development of the paper and board industries in the Province, provided facilities to the public to receive technical advice in the matter of developing this industry. Besides the demonstration parties, the Government started model factories at Bezwada in the Kistna district, Gazulapalli in the Kurnool district and Bugga in the Cuddapah district. Being equipped with machinery, the Bezwada unit could declare this industry an economic success. Workers have been trained in this and other units in the new methods of lifting paper and manufacturing special quality papers which resemble machine-made papers in many respects. At Gazulapalli, much research and investigation was conducted on the utilization of various raw materials indigenous to the locality for the manufacture of different varieties of paper.

The industry was also introduced into nearly nine central jails with a view to give manual training to the convicts and to utilize their labour. Each of these jail units was engaged in the manufacture of a particular variety of paper,—rag papers, office files, envelopes, etc.

Further, the Government gave unhesitatingly all the assistance needed by private concerns, particularly those started under the co-operative system. Two units manufacturing hand-made paper on a co-operative basis at Vizagapatam and Chicacole were provided with water squeezing presses and paper-polishing calenders, which are some of the machinery essential to this industry. Messrs. A. & F. Harveys started one unit at Virudunagar attached to their ginning plant and manufactured rag papers of quality from hosiery cuttings. Messrs. Mettur Paper Industries, Limited, concentrated their attention on the manufacture of all kinds of rag papers.

During this period various problems had to be faced, particularly in the alteration of the methods of manufacturing rag papers into the modern.

The main problem was the raw material. In olden days, only waste papers were used as raw material. But paper that is manufactured out of this material can never be strong. All other materials were tried; and it was discovered at last that the only raw material that would make this industry permanent is rags in different forms, hosiery cuttings, cast-off garments, tailor-cuttings of single colour, etc.

The next important problem was that of the Vat, the tank from which paper is lifted. Suitable alterations were made for obtaining uniform sheets of papers. Various other matters like the procuring of proper paper-lifting frames, arrangements for embossing water marks in the frames, giving double shake to the wet sheet under formation, the couching of papers properly on couching tables, forming the "Post", the introduction of heavy screw-presses for squeezing out the maximum quantity of water from the wet sheets, the peeling off of wet

sheets from the napkins for the maximum shrinkage in papers, the reversing and exchanging of the surfaces of wet sheets pressing till they attain natural polish, the slow drying of papers in the shade, the maturing of papers in cool and dark corners for obtaining an even surface, and finally the polishing of papers by a hand-operated calendar, were tackled to some extent by the officers of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

The dawning of the post-war period is to witness still further development in this industry. The Hand-made Paper Industry has to stand on its own legs and not on grounds of acute shortage of paper or on patriotic motives. For this reason, the Government intend to start one model Hand-made Paper Mill in Madras with first-class implements to manufacture at least one quarter ton of high-class hand-made paper per day. The Post-war Reconstruction Scheme No. 114 envisages such a unit. It is the earnest endeavour of the Government to try and stabilie the various units by means of—

(1) Pressure digesters,
(2) specially designed tanks with perforated bottoms for washing,
(3) beaters,
(4) vats with agitators,
(5) heavy-screw presses or even hydraulic presses, and
(6) pealing wet sheets of paper from napkings.

The Government have also foreseen the possible developments in the industry and have arranged for a short-term course in paper manufacture for school teachers so that this industry might be taught in schools as a prevocational subject. The syllabus prescribed for the course comprises all the aspects of the paper and the printing trades. The manufacture of boards of different kinds is also included in the course. This course is designed to teach everyone who can read and write in one's own mother tongue, the rudiments of paper-making, so that one could develop the particular line of the industry which offers interest and prospects. An examination is conducted in theory and practical at the end of the course and certificates are awarded to all the successful candidates.

There is a great future for this industry if it is conducted under proper guidance. The industry is included in the syllabus of cottage industries for demobilized soldiers. Arrangements are also being made to develop these cottage industries including the hand-made paper industry among the vil lagers by propaganda vans, films, etc.

There is yet a lot to be done for developing this industry and allied products like paper textile cones, paper garments, paper discs for loud-speakers and paper mache products which are all made from cellulose or paper pulp.

Minister's Visit to Paper Factory

The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Minister for Revenue, visited the Esvee Board Factory at Kodambakkam on Sunday the 15th of July. The Paper Specialist to the Government of Madras showed him round.

Amjikarai has for long had a name for its hand-made paper, and with the assistance of the Department of Industries, it is hoped that the factory will develop into a large-scale production centre.

Activities of the Provincial Broadcasting Department

The development of broadcasting in this Province had engaged the attention of the Madras Government from 1933. The Provincial Broadcasting Department came into existence in May 1938. In pursuance of the policy of rural uplift, the Madras Government, the pioneer in this enterprise, sanctioned the installation and maintenance of 103 receiver sets in the various districts of the Presidency at the cost of the Government supplemented by such voluntary contributions as were forthcoming.

To implement the Government's policy of rural broadcasting, arrangements were made for the appointment of staff, the supply of sets suited to the conditions of the Province and the selection of villages for installation of sets. Installation was taken up first in 1938 in districts where prohibition had been introduced or was proposed to be introduced. The people of the villages evinced much interest and enthusiasm over the amenity of this kind provided to them for the first time, so much so, many other panchayat boards volunteered to join the Government scheme by paying the recurring and non-recurring charges towards the installation and maintenance of rural receivers.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, there was a great demand for war news and so the Government offered to install and maintain 300 community sets in villages at a concessional rate of half the cost of installation and maintenance charges, as a measure to assist people in the interior villages to obtain latest information. The scheme was extended on account of demand for greater number of sets to a target figure of 500 receivers. In spite of the difficulty to procure sets and spare parts during the war, the department managed to obtain sets and installed them as fast as possible in as many number of centres as possible.

While the installation of 500 receiver scheme was in progress, the Government of India offered to Madras Government lease-lend American receivers free of cost, but on payment of out-of-pocket expenses covering the freight and handling charges, etc. Under this scheme, 568 sets were obtained from the Government of India in 1944 and these were suitably modified and got ready in the workshop of the Provincial Broadcasting Department for installation in the villages.

The number of radio receivers, etc., now working in villages, municipalities and other places is as follows :—

(i) Number of receivers in villages.	616
(ii) Number of receivers in Municipalities.	184
(iii) Number of receivers with Private Bodies and Government institutions.	74
(iv) Number of receivers in District Boards.	5

Wire Broadcast Systems installed by the Department are in operation in two municipal towns and in one sanatorium (to serve the patients distributed in various wards) in the Presidency and two more such wire

broadcast systems are pending installation in two other municipal towns.

The department has established 46 Radio Service Stations in the province. One Radio Supervisor is in charge of each Service Station and he is provided with the necessary test meters, tools, battery charging plant, etc., to attend to the repairs and charging of batteries of village radio sets put in his charge. Each Supervisor attends to about 15 to 25 radio sets depending upon their distance from his service station. In case of battery sets of the villages, the Supervisor sends through a battery peon a charged battery once in 15 or 21 days depending upon the type of set, and gets back the discharged battery from the village which was working the set till then. He charges this discharged battery once again and sends it to the village in due time thus keeping the set working two hours per day without fail.

The villagers listen to either Madras Short Wave Station or Trichinopoly Medium Wave Station depending upon whether they require Telugu or Tamil rural programmes. The sets are worked for two hours every evening.

In case any set stops working, the custodian of the receiver sends intimation to the Radio Supervisor who is in charge of the set, who proceeds to the village immediately and attends to the set. In case the set requires major repairs, the Supervisor installs a standby set at the centre, to provide service to the villagers till their original set is restored after repairs.

The province is divided into five circles and each circle is put in charge of an Assistant Radio Engineer. They supervise the work of Radio Supervisors, attend to any complaints or requirements of villagers with regard to working of the sets and conduct major repairs to radio receivers received from field Supervisors. The Assistant Radio Engineer periodically inspects the radio centres, contacts the villagers directly to know about their requirements and intimates the Radio Engineer at Madras every month of the reception conditions in the districts, the progress of work in maintaining the sets, and the reaction of the villagers to the programmes broadcast during the previous month and their requirements. Each Assistant Radio Engineer is provided with a laboratory well equipped with modern tools and testing instruments for servicing the sets efficiently and quickly.

The Radio Engineer to the Government of Madras is in charge of the entire work of the department and has a Central workshop and laboratory at Madras where initial testing, modification and assembling of equipment is made before it is sent to field for installation in villages, municipalities, district boards or other bodies. A central store of all radio components and spare parts necessary for repairing sets in the field is maintained by Radio Engineer and spares are supplied from this store quickly to field Radio Supervisors and Assistant Radio Engineers on their indents for supervising the sets.

With the help of the close organization of field and supervisory staff, laboratory and workshop facilities, this department has been maintaining more than 800 community sets distributed throughout the province, some of the centres being 20 to 50 miles from the nearest railway station or a good road and some in the interior of agency tracts which are reached after two or three days of journey from the headquarters of the Supervisor. Madras is the only province in this country to organize such public service of rural broadcasting through community sets on such a large scale.

The department has also been undertaking the supervision and maintenance of the wireless equipment of the Malabar Special Police and that of the Madras City Police. This department has also taken up the maintenance of the public address system of the Madras Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

A complete set of public address equipment is maintained by the department for use in public functions addressed by His Excellency the Governor or the Honourable Ministers. This department renders service to all the sister department of this Government who are interested in the installation and maintenance of wireless equipment, by way of expert technical advice and repairs and servicing to their equipment.

The department conducts in its Central Laboratory at Madras, standard tests on radio receivers and components as per R.M.A. specifications, if any, radio business houses or industrial concerns require their components or sets to be tested for this purpose, charging a small fee for it. This assistance to Radio Industry in this province has been possible on account of the well-equipped laboratory and workshop of this department.

Research Section

There is a research section attached to the laboratory and workshop of the Radio Engineer at Madras.

(i) *Provincial Research Schemes.*—Government of Madras through the Department of Industries and Commerce have sanctioned three studentships for research scholars that work in this laboratory. The Government have also sanctioned grants-in-aid for conducting research in these laboratories in addition to these scholarships.

Development and research work is being carried out on the problems of making loudspeakers, test-meters and meter units, community receivers, etc. These research schemes include the investigation on the scope of obtaining suitable materials available in this country and that are necessary to be imported from outside to produce these on industrial scale.

(ii) *C.S.I.R. (Government of India) Schemes.*—Under the grants provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, two Research Assistants with the workshop assistants are also working on two different problems (1) lead-acid batteries and (2) electrolytic condensers of interest to this department and to the radio industry in this country.

All the above schemes are conducted under the guidance of the Radio Engineer in the laboratory and workshop of this department. These schemes are organized and worked to provide necessary trained hands for radio industry and also to obtain results for starting industries for the production of certain radio components in demand in large quantities in this country.

These research schemes include the investigation on the scope of obtaining suitable materials available in this country and that are necessary to be imported from outside to produce these on industrial scale. The Research scholars who work in these schemes get trained in laboratory and workshop well and in carrying out work on independent problems. They form the basis of technical personnel necessary for starting any radio or electronic industry in this province.

Maintenance Scheme of the Department

All the 900 sets installed by the department have only been installed in villages and municipalities who had requested for them on their own initiative and on demand by the local public. The various municipalities and panchayat boards have provided the necessary funds for the initial cost of the sets and subsequent maintenance of them by the department.

The maintenance charges to be paid by local bodies are fixed by Government in such a manner that all the panchayat boards with reasonable income may afford to have a community set installed in the villages. The charges meet only part of the expenses incurred by this department to render this service, but still they are kept low to make this amenity available to as large a number of villages as possible.

The following rates are charged towards the cost of the radio set, installation charges and initial licence fee :—

	Lease Lend Radio Sets.	
	Mains. RS.	*Battery.* RS.
(1) Panchayat board	142	300
(2) Private bodies.	300	300
(3) Municipalities ..	290	290

The following rates are charged towards the maintenance of the sets :

(1) *Panchayat Boards*—Rs. 90 per annum per set which includes cost of replacement, spare parts, batteries, etc.

(2) *Municipalities*—Rs. 120 per year (irrespective of the number of sets installed) only for serving, and the cost of replacement parts are to be met by the municipality.

(3) *Private Bodies*—Rs. 240 per annum per battery set and Rs. 330 per year for a mains set—these charges include cost of replacement parts also.

The above maintenance fees are exclusive of the annual licence fee.

According to the existing arrangements, both Madras and Trichinopoly Stations of the All-India Radio are broadcasting special rural programmes in Telugu and Tamil respectively in the evenings which include talks on rural subjects, market rates, folk songs, etc. The planning of the programmes is solely in the hands of the A.I.R. authorities. However, they co-ordinate with this department in so selecting the programmes as to suit the rural listeners, as per the technical and programme reports collected from the field staff of this department and supplied to the All-India Raio Engineer every month.

As there are not sufficient number of transmitters, rural programmes are broadcast at present only in two of the major languages, Tamil and Telugu.

The department has maintenance staff distributed throughout the province and as such even the remotest village is able to get this benefit of hearing the radio, which they cannot arrange to have by themselves as most of the rural areas are non-electrified and backward in all respects. The special advantage which the rural centres gain in the Government maintenance scheme is that they are charged on average only a third of what is actually incurred by the department to maintain their sets. Lastly, the department is giving a trouble-free and prompt service to the local bodies towards the maintenance of the sets, attending to the repairs, etc., promptly, so that the rural listeners are not deprived of this amenity even for a short period.

The aim of the department is to install in almost every village a radio receiver at as low a cost as possible and to provide the rural listeners with adequate broadcast programmes in all languages of the province.

You have in the above sketch a comprehensive view of this young department devoted to rendering a new type of service to the public and especially to those gentle folk who form 90 per cent of the population of this province, who live in remote villages and who have not the advantage of literacy to learn and understand by their efforts the latest developments that are taking place in the human history throughout the world. They have only the spoken word as their means of transaction with the neighbour either for business or recreation or normal necessities of life. It is this major part of our brothers and sisters that this department is devoted to serve by bringing to their knowledge anything that an up-to-date and literate city man can know at any time taking advantage of his city environments which are denied to the villager.

Now that you are acquainted with this department from next issue onwards, we will be giving information of what this department is doing and in return we shall be too glad to receive any suggestions from the readers to enable this department to serve the public better.

Statistics of Cotton Mills Production

Statement showing the statistics of production in cotton spinning and weaving mills in the Madras Province during the month of March 1946.

1. Cotton twist and yarn—		Quantity. LB.
Counts	1 to 10	336,762
Do.	11 to 20	7,008,154
Do.	21 to 30	4,882,643
Do.	31 to 40	3,170,230
Do. ..	Above 40	1,414,229
	Total ..	17,221,261

	Quantity. LB.	Quantity. YARDS.	Quantity. DOZEN.
2. Cotton piece goods—			
Grey and bleached piece-goods.	1,211,147	5,036,607	..
Coloured piecegoods ..	1,397,534	4,306,054	..
Grey and coloured (other than piecegoods).	126,399	..	18,045
Hosiery	157,141	..	28,207
Miscellaneous	36,818	..	..
Cotton mixed with silk ..	..	..	..
Total ..	2,929,039	9,342,661	46,252

Statistics of Imports and Exports

I

Statement showing the Imports and Exports of principal commodities by rail into and from Madras Province during the months of April, May, June, July and August 1944.

(These figures are the latest available.)

Commodities. (1)	IMPORTS. April 1944. TONS. (2)	May 1944. TONS. (3)	June 1944. TONS. (4)	July 1944. TONS. (5)	August 1944. TONS. (6)
1. Paddy	244	311	160	..	..
2. Rice	2,371	3,482	1,621	1,869	1,303
3. Wheat	..	..	..	..	20
4. Wheat flour	5	21	2	22	1,469
5. Grams	18,849	11,562	10,342	9,102	6,081
6. Jowar and Bajra	123	129	1,398	6,828	9,620
7. Castor seed	1,100	402	344	115	114
8. Cotton seed	685	1,944	4,483	5,381	4,135
9. Groundnut seed	3,632	4,541	2,863	6,013	4,045
10. Lin seed	..	..	1	..	..
11. Rape and Mustard seed	93	74	256	574	829
12. Til or gingelly	1,185	1,221	962	2,323	2,466
13. Oil cakes	2,653	2,091	3,247	3,889	3,040
14. Coconut oil	..	1	1	..	..
15. Groundnut oil	28	7	87	..	13
16. Vegetable oils excluding Groundnut and Coconut oil	281	181	98	111	277
17. Ghee	..	..	..	..	..
18. Salt	2,590	7,480	2,714	92	28
19. Sugar	591	2,018	2,734	3,971	4,682
20. Gur, Rab and Molasses	24	..	..	35	162
21. Coffee	173	122	189	180	304
22. Tea	60	103	63	62	40
23. Tobacco, raw	139	168	178	230	167
24. Hemp	428	567	966	213	56
25. Hides, raw	953	704	528	450	444
26. Skins, raw	458	589	689	716	568
27. Hides and Skins tanned or dressed	293	319	229	328	347
28. Cotton twist and yarn in lb.	1,502,290	1,948,937	844,334	1,090,779	1,330,[illegible]66
29. Cotton Piecegoods in yards	13,339,476	13,177,100	19,248,240	18,982,911	15,309,190

—	EXPORTS. April 1944. TONS. (2)	May 1944. TONS. (3)	June 1944. TONS. (4)	July 1944. TONS. (5)	August 1944. TONS. (6)
1. Paddy	..	..	..	8	..
2. Rice	18	460	1,169	231	189
3. Wheat	80	788	782	1,098	2,568
4. Wheat flour	13	4	43	96	3,376
5. Grams	144	106	..	110	282
6. Jowar and Bajra	110	..	..	..	..
7. Castor seed	..	20	5	28	9
8. Cotton seed	97	193	1	11	36
9. Groundnut seed	2,1[illegible]8	3,519	6,140	6,582	9,194
10. Lin seed	..	3	..	4	..
11. Rape and Mustard seed	19	154	250	296	22
12. Til or gingelly	..	42	..	81	..
13. Oil cakes	1	..	..	54	956
14. Coconut oil	2,527	2,433	2,817	2,[illegible]66	1,478
15. Groundnut oil	3,002	4,395	3,732	3,857	3,932
16. Vegetable oils excluding Groundnut and Coconut oil	67	154	102	297	44
17. Ghee	42	10	4	..	6
18. Salt	3,443	5,298	3,443	4,748	3,550
19. Sugar	1	1	2	1	1
20. Gur, Rab and Molasses	1,288	1,125	2,443	3,866	2,058
21. Coffee	57	1[illegible]4	207	16	56
22. Tea	747	557	512	579	410
23. Tobacco, raw	2,269	1,667	1,395	2,006	1,[illegible]74
24. Hemp	73	19	9	14	46
25. Hides, raw	184	135	240	1[illegible]1	147
26. Skins, raw	218	166	43	86	98
27. Hides and Skins, tanned or dressed	3[illegible]0	72	247	748	350
28. Cotton twist and yarn in lb.	2,821,824	2,866,916	2,682,020	3,371,657	3,032,640
29. Cotton Piecegoods in yards	8,066,214	6,495,061	7,160,085	9,594,218	8,679,384

Book Review

" CONGRESS MINISTRIES AT WORK ".—Congress Economic and Political Studies Series No. 2—By K. Mitra, Secretary, Economic and Political Research Department, All-India Congress Committee, Swaraj Bhavan, Allahabad—Price Rs. 2—Pages 110.

A year is over since the Congress assumed Office in eight out of the eleven provinces of India in April 1946. "Congress Ministries at Work" attempts a review of the activities of the Congress Ministries during the first year of their Office. This review is based on the authoritative reports furnished by the Publicity Departments of the various Congress Governments.

A careful perusal of the pages of this brochure will convince any unprejudiced reader that within the very short period of twelve months the Congress Governments have turned out a record volume of useful work. It must be realized that one year is too short a period to bring about a millennium in any field of social life. The period becomes altogether inadequate if we consider it in the background of the abnormal and hectic times we have been living in. Though the War is over, the stench and the smoke of the war still fill the air, and all the evil legacies of the war still sit tight like " The old Man of the Sea " on India's neck. In the new international set-up the problems of reconstruction have become exceedingly intricate and global in character and do not always admit of an easy or unilateral solution. Anyway reconstruction implies planning, and planning requires thought and discussion. All this means a lot of time. The year that has closed has, therefore, necessarily been a year of planning. The ground is thoroughly prepared for future action. Considerable time has been devoted to find ways and means, draft and introduce legislations, and set up the machinery to implement them.

Even in the work of planning, the Ministries have not been left in peace. There was always the ever-threatening problem of food and clothing which in happier times used to look after themselves, but which in the present context have consumed a disproportionate amount of the time and energy of the Ministers and the resources of the State. Moreover, the efforts of the Ministries have been hampered by communal strifes and the persistence of a heightened type of corruption—an aftermath of war, scarcity and inflation. However, with all these handicaps, the achievements of the Congress Ministries, as enumerated in the book under review, are impressive indeed. Immediately on assuming office the Ministries restored civil liberties and tried successfully to remove the barriers which impeded the free flow of normal political life. The Ministries have eased the Food situation by a successful drive for procurement

II

Statement showing the Imports and Exports of principal commodities by sea into and from Madras Province during the month of February 1947.

IMPORTS.

Commodities.	*Denominations.*	*Foreign.*	*Coastwise.*	*Total.*
1. Paddy	Tons.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
2. Rice	"	Nil.	1,851	1,851
3. Wheat	"	22.698	..	22.698
4. Wheat flour	"	6,130	..	6,130
5. Grams	"	..	2,883	2,883
6. Jowar and Bajra	"	..	..	..
7. Castor seed	"	..	..	..
8. Cotton seed	"	..	96	96
9. Groundnut seed	"	..	8	8
10. Linseed	"	..	..	..
11. Rape and Mustard	"	..	..	..
12. Til or gingelly	"	..	53	53
13. Oil cakes	"	..	..	..
14. Coconut oil	Gals.	21,406	..	21,406
15. Groundnut oil	"	..	..	..
16. Ghee	Cwt.	..	2	2
17. Salt	Ton.	..	3,641	3,641
18. Sugar	"	..	..	..
19. Gur, Rab and Molasses	"	..	..	..
20. Coffee	Cwt.	Nil.	1,764	1,764
21. Tea	Lb.	50	16,462	16,512
22. Tobacco, raw	"	3,523	360,074	363,597
23. Hemp, raw	Cwt.	..	..	..
24. Hides, raw	Tons.	104	291	395
25. Skins, raw	"	10	169	179
26. Hides and skins (tanned or dressed)	"	6	16	22
27. Cotton, raw	"	446	2,636	3,082
28. Cotton, twist and yarn	Lb.	..	7,840	7,840
29. Cotton piece goods	Yards.	9,675	1,252,002	1,261,677

EXPORTS.

	Denominations.	*Foreign.*	*Coastwise.*	*Total.*
1. Paddy	Tons.	..	..	..
2. Rice	"	..	..	..
3. Wheat	"	..	..	..
4. Wheat flour	"	..	..	..
5. Grams	"	..	..	..
6. Jowar and Bajra	"	..	..	..
7. Castor seed	"	68	..	68
8. Cotton seed	"	..	..	..
9. Groundnut seed	"	..	..	..
10. Linseed	"	1,510	..	1,510
11. Rape and Mustard	"	..	..	..
12. Til or gingelly	"	57	10	67
13. Oil cakes	"	..	384	384
14. Coconut oil	Gals.	..	304,685	304,685
15. Groundnut oil	"	749.977	72,742	822,719
16. Ghee	Cwt.	..	..	..
17. Salt	Tons.	..	..	..
18. Sugar	"	..	..	..
19. Gur, Rab and Molasses	"	..	..	..
20. Coffee	Cwt.	5,039	370	5,409
21. Tea	Lbs.	2,603,258	668,935	3,272,193
22. Tobacco, raw	"	2,810,676	260	2,810,936
23. Hemp, raw	Cwt.	..	..	..
24. Hides, raw	Tons.	..	(Cwt.) 89	(Cwt.) 89
25. Skins, raw	"	30	..	30
26. Hides and skins (Tanned or dressed)	"	1,030	5	1,035
27. Cotton, raw	"	18	44	62
28. Cotton twist and yarn	Lb.	24,000	44,000	68,000
29. Cotton piece goods	Yards.	3,897,484	1,749,492	5,646,976

(*Continued on next page*)

and increased production and by checking corruption and black-marketeering. As agricultural efficiency depends on a sound land tenure, effective steps have been taken to remove the intermediaries between the tiller of the soil and the State and to introduce suitable tenancy legislation. Agricultural Departments have been reshuffled and irrigation policies have been reoriented. Distribution of agricultural loans, seeds and manures have been popularized. There has been a drive for resuscitating the dying village industries and crafts with a view to relieve the pressure on land and to raise the standard of living. To aid the industries, big and small, efforts are being made to generate cheap electricity through hydro-electric plants. Possibilities are being explored to make the villages self-sufficient in the matter of cloth by stimulating the hand spinning and handloom weaving. Each of the Ministries is pursuing with a crusading spirit the programme of liquidating illiteracy, drunkenness, untouchability and exploitation either in fields or factories. Producer-cum-consumer co-operatives are being developed to eliminate the middleman. Last but not the least, autonomous village administrative units are being built up, because the independence of the individual's personality and judgment demands decentralization of power, both political and economic.

As Sri Jugal Kishore points out in his preface to the brochure, "that some of the hardships consequent upon the retention of control are still weighing heavily upon the people is a matter of grave concern to the Congress Governments and every effort is being made to reduce these hardships by gradual removal of controls, and, if their retention for the time being is considered absolutely essential, to have them administered efficiently and equitably."

The Congress derives its strength from the people. And "Congress Ministries at Work" shows beyond all doubt that the Congress Ministers are doing their best to be worthy of the confidence that the people in this country have placed in them.

(Continued from previous page.)

III

Statement showing the index numbers of import and export prices for the province of Madras for March 1947—

1. The index number of declared values of foreign imports declined by 14 points to 278.
2. The index number of declared values of foreign exports declined by 16 points to 275.
3. The index number of declared values of coastwise imports declined by 71 points to 301.
4. The index number of declared values of coastwise exports declined by 24 points to 328.

MANUFACTURE OF RUBBER SPONGES

Good quality rubber sponges are generally manufactured from rubber latex because its use results in uniformity of cells and good resilience, but the control of the process is more difficult than with para rubber. Attempts on the manufacture of sponges from para rubber have, however, not yielded sponges of the quality approaching that of sponges from rubber latex. Recently a new process has been discovered. This process implies a real improvement in so far as it enables the manufacture of sponges of uniform cells from para rubber with resilience approaching that of latex sponges. The process is further ideally suited for the manufacture of contraceptive or safety sponges for birth control purposes which used to be the exclusive monopoly of Germany in the pre-war days, and the fact that it employs para rubber instead of latex makes their manufacture rather more economic.

The Process

The process does not involve any specific change in the general technique now adopted for the manufacture of crude sponges from para rubber in various rubber factories. Its special feature is the composition of the mixture used in the manufacture and therein also specially the inflating agent.

Raw materials.—All the raw materials, including the inflating agent, are easily and abundantly available in the country and are generally those in common use in rubber factories.

Equipment.—The process is not supposed to be worked in a factory set up exclusively for its exploitation. It is most advantageously worked as an item of manufacture in any existing rubber factory, specially one that is already engaged in the manufacture of sponges. As such it would suffice to mention that the equipment needed is just the same as in ordinary rubber factories, i.e., mixing rollers, calender, volcanizer, moulds to suit the size of sponges, etc.

Costing

As the sponges are manufactured to comply with various specified standards, determined by the cell structure, no comprehensive cost sheet can be given. It would, therefore, suffice to indicate the prime cost of production per pound of sponges manufactured.

Again, the labour and power cost has been indicated on the basis of statistical information pertaining to medium sized rubber factories in general i.e., labour at 9 pies per pound and fuel and power at 1 anna 3 pies per pound of compounded rubber excluding depreciation.

	RS.	A.	P.
Raw materials ..	1	3	0
Labour	0	0	9
Power and fuel ..	0	1	3
Cost per pound ..	1	5	0

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